

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /081 W

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R 231515Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1784

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS ANKARA 9369

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS,PINT, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE AEGEAN AND DCA
NEGOTIATIONS

1. THE DECEMBER 23 TURKISH PRESS INCLUDED ARTICLES ON
THE AEGEAN AND US-TURKISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS:

(A) AYRINTILI HABER (WHICH HEADLINED ITS STORY,
"ACCORDING TO MILITARY EXPERTS THE AEGEAN IS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN CYPRUS") AND GUNAYDIN CARRY ARTICLES BASED ON AN
ANKA NEWS AGENCY REPORT CLAIMING MILITARY EXPERTS IN THE
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC) WANT THE GOT TO EXTRACT
CONCESSIONS ON THE AEGEAN FROM GREECE DURING THE CYPRUS
TALKS. THE ARTICLES CRITICIZE THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT FOR
IGNORING GREECE'S ARMAMENT POLICY WHICH HAS LED TO A
DE FACTO SITUATION FAVORING GREECE IN THE AEGEAN. THEY
ALSO CLAIM THAT ALTHOUGH THE USG GAVE SOME SUPPORT
TO TURKEY ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THAT
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POLICY WAS TO GET THE BASES REOPENED. IN THE AEGEAN

DISPUTE, HOWEVER, THE US WILL SIDE WITH GREECE.
(GUNAYDIN ALSO REPORTED THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY, IN AN
INTERVIEW WITH ATHENS' AKROPOLIS, STATED THAT THE US
SHOULD USE PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S STRATEGY OF USING FORCE
IMMEDIATELY AGAINST TURKEY IF TURKEY AGAIN INTERVENED
IN CYPRUS.)

(B) ORTA DOGU, WHICH SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL ACTION
PARTY, REPORTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER TOLD FONMIN
CAGLAYANGIL IN BRUSSELS THAT USG WAS PREPARED TO INCREASE
MILITARY ASSISTANCE BEYOND DOLARS 205 MILLION IF GOT
WOULD REOPEN THE BASES, BUT THE GOT REFUSED THE OFFER.

(C) CUMHURIYET DEVOTES A FULL PAGE TO ARTICLES
CONCERNING THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE RELATONSHIP (INCLUDING
ONE REPRINT FROM THE SOVIET WEEKLY CLAIMING TURKEY HAS
LONG DESIRED TO REVIEW ITS NATO OBLIGATION.) THE MAIN
ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY UMIT GURTUNA, IS TITLED "BASE
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US HAVE BEEN GOING ON SECRETLY
SINCE NOVEMBER 24" AND IS A REHASH OF KNOWN POSITIONS
OF BOTH SIDES. IN A SECOND ARTICLE HE MAKES THE POINT
THAT US INTELLIGENCE INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS PIRINCLIK
ARE PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO PROTECT NORTH AMERICA AND ONLY
PERIPHERALLY CONCERNED WITH THE NATO ALLIANCE. THE
GENERAL THRUST OF THE FULL PAGE SPREAD IS THAT THE
INSTALLATIONS ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES
THAN TO TURKEY AND "FOR THESE REASONS THE PENTAGON IS
NOT ABLE TO GIVE UP THE BASES IN TURKEY AND REPLACEMENTS
FOR THEM CANNOT BE FOUND SOON."

2. IN THE DECEMBER 21 MILLIYETNİLUFER YALCIN WRITES
THAT THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF THE 10-HOUR NSC MEETING
DECEMBER 17 WAS FOREIGN POLICY. FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL
BRIEFED THE GROUP ON HIS MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS AND THE
NATO MINISTERIAL. YALCIN ALSO CLAIMS THE NSC
RECEIVED A BRIEFING ON US-TURKISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS.
ACCORDING TO THIS "BRIEFING" THE US REGARDED AS "RIGHT
AND USEFUL" TURKEY'S DESIRE THAT US-TURKISH BILATERAL
REALTIONS BE PLACED ON A BASIS OF "CONTINUITY, SABILITY,
MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY AND EQUIVALENT OBLIGATIONS."
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THE US WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF
TURKISH COMMAND OF BASES WITH AMERICANS WORKING THERE
AS "EXPERTS AND TECHNICIANS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY POLICIES, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA09369
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750445-1128
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751217/aaaaaohf.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE AEGEAN AND DCA NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PINT, TU, GR, CY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006